

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please replace the first paragraph of the application with the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application No. ~~09/527,612~~ 09/526,612, filed March 16, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of the following applications: United States Patent Application No. 09/070,829, filed April 30, 1998, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,077,244, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/065,347, filed November 12, 1997; International Patent Application No. PCT/US98/24103, filed November 12, 1998, and International Patent Application No. PCT/US99/10609, filed May 13, 1999, which claims priority to United States Provisional Application No. 60/094,801, filed July 31, 1998 and United States Provisional Application No. 60/120,888, filed February 20, 1999. Each of the foregoing applications is incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph on page 26 beginning on line 12 with the following paragraph:

It may be desirable to allow the medical professional to delay retraction after the catheter is inserted into the patient. Therefore, the device 710 may include a window 721 in the side of the housing 720. The needle retainer 740 is disposed adjacent the window allowing the medical professional to manually engage the needle retainer. If the medical professional desires to control retraction, the medical professional can apply pressure to deflect the needle retainer radially inwardly so that the retainer abuts an interior wall 725. In this way, the needle retainer is pinched between the grip of the medical professional and the interior wall to prevent the needle from retracting into the housing. Once the medical professional releases the needle retainer, the needle retracts into the housing.